

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04
CEA-01 ITC-01 /090 W
-----110099 190645Z /15

R 190544Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9455

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 10787

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S FIRST MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER FUKUDA

1. AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S FIRST MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
FUKUDA, WHICH HAD BEEN DELAYED UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, TOOK PLACE ON JULY 15. THE PRIME
MINISTER WAS RELAXED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BETTER-THAN-EXPECTED
LDP SHOWING AND OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS. ALTHOUGH THE
AMBASSADOR'S CALL ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 30 MINUTES,
THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER LOOKED
FORWARD TO A LEISURELY CONVERSATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL
INTEREST, AND THE CALL LASTED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR.

2. RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

AT THE OUTSET, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD
ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TO THE PRIME MINISTER HIS WARM REGARDS AND
ADMIRATION FOR THE POSITIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER
HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE LONDON SUMMIT TALKS. THE PRESIDENT
APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD STATED HIS
VIEWS FORTHRIGHTLY AND HAD NOT TAKEN A BACKSEAT TO ANYONE. THE
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PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MADE CLEAR
THAT HE VALUES HIGHLY HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESI-
DENT. HE RECALLED THEIR FIRST MEETING IN 1975, THE LETTER HE HAD
RECEIVED DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND HIS TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT SOON AFTER HIS ELECTION. WITH
SUCH ASSOCIATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, HE HAD FELT THAT
WHEN HE CAME TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH 1977, HE WAS MEETING WITH AN

OLD FRIEND. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S KINDNESS ON THAT OCCASION AND FOR THE FACT THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO HAVE SUCH CANDID CONVERSATIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE BELIEVES THAT JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES CAN DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT IN THE MANNER OF TRUE FRIENDS.

3. U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

THE PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED THAT HE HAD A LONG PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE POST WAR EVOLUTION OF U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS HAVING ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER KISHI AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST BILATERAL SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN 1957 WITH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER. HE NOTED THAT OVER THIS 20-YEAR PERIOD THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT BILATERAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS OKINAWAN REVERSION, TEXTILES, EXCHANGE RATES AND THE "NIXON SHOCK." THE PRIME MINISTER FELT, HOWEVER, THAT AT THIS POINT IN TIME OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS HOW TO ADVANCE U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, A QUALITATIVE CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER FOUND IMPRESSIVE. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED TO THESE COMMENTS BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP WILL BECOME EVEN MORE FIRMLY CEMENTED IN VIEW OF THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE JAPANESE AND U.S. ROLE NOT ONLY IN THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN AREA BUT GLOBALLY. HE ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER OF HIS DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM IN STRENGTHENING THAT RELATIONSHIP.

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4. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT IN ALMOST EVERY RESPECT THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE. HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONFRONT PROBLEMS FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. HE FELT THAT IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT WE STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO DISCUSS SUCH PROBLEMS TOGETHER AND FIND SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT IN HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH KEIDANREN PRESIDENT DOKO AND WITH U.S. TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES HE HAD NOTED WITH INTEREST THAT BOTH SIDES SHARED THE VIEW THAT JAPAN AND THE U.S. MUST ENDEAVOR TO ANTICIPATE BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND DEAL WITH THEM BEFORE THEY BECOME EXPLOSIVE AND GIVE RISE TO MUTUAL RECRIMINATION. IF, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED, WE CAN PINPOINT SUCH PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY GET TOO FAR OUT-OF-HAND, WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD SERVE TO FORESTALL THE EMERGENCE OF PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD OUTLINED FOR PRESIDENT DOKO THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP IN THE U.S. OF INDUSTRY, LABOR AND CONGRESS AS THEY BEAR ON THE PRESIDENT'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN LIBERAL TRADE POLICIES. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO EXPRESSED IN THIS CONNECTION THE HOPE THAT JAPAN WOULD AGREE TO INITIATE SUB-CABINET MEETINGS IN THE NOT

TOO DISTANT FUTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE ECONOMIC
SITUATION AND IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS.

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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5. THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED THAT THE OBSERVATIONS THAT THE
AMBASSADOR HAD MADE TO PRESIDENT DOKO WERE VERY IMPORTANT AND
THAT HE COMPLETELY AGREED THAT JAPAN AND THE U.S. MUST ENDEAVOR
TO DEAL IN ADVANCE WITH SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE AMBASSADOR HAD
ALLUDED TO. HE STATED THAT HE FELT SUB-CABINET MEETINGS COULD
BE MOST SIGNIFICANT IN THIS RESPECT AND URGED THAT WE PROCEED
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO GET THIS PROCESS UNDERWAY.

6. THE WORLD ECONOMY

THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REVITALIZING THE WORLD
ECONOMY IF WE ARE TO AVOID POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC
CONSEQUENCES WHICH COULD BE DAMAGING NOT ONLY TO U.S. AND JAPAN
BUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE ALSO SHARED
THE PRESIDENT'S CONVICTION OF THE ESSENTIALITY OF U.S., WEST
GERMAN AND JAPANESE COOPERATION. THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED
HIS DETERMINATION THAT JAPAN SHOULD ACHIEVE A 6.7 GROWTH RATE
DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING ITS
CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE STIMULATING
EFFECT OF INCREASED PUBLIC EXPENDITURES WILL BEGIN TO TAKE HOLD
IN AUGUST AND THAT AS THE JAPANESE ECONOMY REGAINS MOMENTUM,
IMPORTS WILL INCREASE, EXPORTS WILL DECLINE AND THE CURRENT
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ACCOUNT BALANCE WILL BE REDUCED. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD TO RECEIVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OPTIMISTIC FORECAST AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE REALIZED.

7. JAPAN AND ASEAN

THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH THE LEADERS OF ASEAN IN EARLY AUGUST FOLLOWED BY HIS VISITS TO EACH OF THE ASEAN CAPITALS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER HIS INTENTION THAT JAPAN SHOULD EXPAND ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND RECALLED THAT HE HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT HE WOULD MAKE THIS ONE OF HIS MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE A SUCCESS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WAS MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S POSITIVE APPROACH WHICH, HE SAID, SPEAKS WELL FOR THE EMERGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE AMBASSADOR WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WOULD BRING ABOUT A GREATER DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND THOSE COUNTRIES.

8. IN CLOSING THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND URGED THAT THEY FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET FREQUENTLY IN THE FUTURE. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT HE WAS ALWAYS AT HIS DISPOSAL.

9. IN ADDITION, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE AMBASSADOR ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE SUBJECTS OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING AND MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. SUBSTANCE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY SEPTEL.

MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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